

of Simon de Montfort, to whose estates and influence the Dukes of Lancaster had succeeded, had in the days of the Barons' War consisted of a single square Norman keep. Its splendid mass still towers above all the buildings of later ages that stand around. Once it had resisted the victors of Evesham during a six months' siege, but it was no longer defensible against the artillery of a later age; cannon could not be properly mounted on its walls. Nor was its barbarous grandeur adapted for the civilised palace of so great a man as John of Gaunt. The Duke erected a new suite of buildings, containing a banqueting hall which is perhaps the most beautiful and delicate piece of domestic architecture in England, but took care to protect it at each end by a strong projecting tower suitable to carry cannon. Besides Kewlworth, he possessed more than a score of other castles, including such famous holds as Pontefract, Dunstanborough, Leicester, Pevensey, Monmouth, and Lancaster itself. The rest bear less famous names, but the ruins of such a one as Tickhill show that they were strong fortifications, enclosing large areas. No other private person besides the Duke possessed so many strongholds. His rival, the Earl of March, had about ten, the Earls of Warwick and Stafford only two or three apiece.¹ Lord Percy occupied many royal castles along the Border, in his capacity as King's lieutenant against the Scotch.

In such places as these, the lords kept up their great establishments. When they travelled they often moved their miniature court and army with them. A nobleman's suite was a better school of manners than of morals. Wyke, though he directed most of his energy towards attacking the Church, and never openly sought a bargain with the secular lords, could not refrain from rebuking the trains which they carried with them. They are < Proud Lucifer's children, extortioners, robbers and rievors,* * They destroy their poor neighbours, and make their house a den of thieves.' The reformer thought these establishments had a bad influence on other classes by setting the fashion. * How cometh example of pride, gluttony and harlotry from lords' courts to the

¹ *Calendar, Inquisitiones post mortem* sub Lancaster, March, Warwick, Stafford; Hardy's *Charters of Duchy of* *Gloucester*